

- MINUTES -

UTAH AIR QUALITY BOARD MEETING

October 1, 2003

I. Call to Order

John Veranth called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Members present:

Jonathan C. Cherry
John M. Veranth
Jerry D. Grover
JoAnn B. Seghini

James R. Horrocks
Wayne M. Samuelson
Jeffrey K. Utley

Richard R. Olson
Scott Hirschi
Dianne R. Nielson

Executive Secretary: Richard W. Sprott

II. Date of the Next Air Quality Board Meeting

Due to deadlines with the Regional Haze SIP, the November 5 meeting was changed to Monday, November 17, 2003. A meeting was not scheduled for December.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the September 3, 2003, Board Meeting

• Motion

Richard Olson made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2003, Board meeting. JoAnn Seghini seconded the motion.

John Veranth suggested a clarification be made on Page 1 under Item IV, Operating Permit Program Proposed Fee for Fiscal Year 2005. The proposed fee should state "...\$37.47 per ton of chargeable pollutant." Also, on Page 2, "Final Air Quality Board adoption is expected at the December 3, 2003, meeting..," should read "Final Air Quality Board adoption would be needed by the December meeting..."

Richard Olson amended his motion to include Mr. Veranth's changes. JoAnn Seghini seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IV. Final Adoption: R307-214-2, Incorporation by Reference, Various Subparts of 40 CFR Part 63, National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPS), MACT Standards

Presenter: Eileen Brennan, Environmental Scientist

No comments were received during the public comment period or during the public hearing. Staff recommends final adoption of R307-214-2 as proposed.

- **Motion**

Jerry Grover made the motion to adopt this item. Wayne Samuelson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Information Items

A. Prescribed Burning and Smoke Management

Mike Dudley of the U.S. Forest Service was invited to address the Board regarding the Cascade Springs fire.

Mr. Dudley addressed the Board saying that the fire took place on September 23 at the Cascade Springs II unit. It was a 600-acre prescribed fire project that had been in the planning for three years. A test pattern was performed at noon that day and proved to be good. The officials elected to proceed with the prescribed burn. At approximately 3:00 p.m., spots outside the boundaries caught fire. By 5:00 p.m., the burn boss in charge of the operation declared it a wildfire.

The following day, a Great Basin Type 2 incident command team took over management of the incident, and by Friday (Oct.3) the operation will be given back to the Uintah National Forest. The wildfire spread over approximately 8,000 acres.

Anytime there is an escape, especially one of this magnitude, a regional forester's review is held. This review has been scheduled for the week of October 20. Members of this region will not participate in the review. The review team will take a look at the pre-planning, the implementation phase, and any possible fatal flaws that existed during the implementation of the operation. The findings of the review will be presented to the regional forester for follow-up action.

Bob Dalley reviewed some graphs that showed high PM2.5 readings at the Hawthorne and Lindon monitors due to the smoke. Also, a very high PM10 one-hour value was measured at the Hawthorne station.

In response to a question from Jim Horrocks about a permit to burn, Mr. Dudley answered that the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) granted approval for the burn. The DAQ has requirements that must be met before a burn can take place. Mr. Horrocks encouraged Mr. Dudley to make sure the review committee addresses each restriction listed in the permit so that information in the final report will make it easy for the Board to determine if a violation occurred. Mr. Horrocks suggested that a public hearing also be held in Utah County (a public hearing will be held in Heber).

Richard Olson asked the reason for the prescribed burn. Mr. Dudley responded it was for wildlife habitat improvement as well as hazardous fuels reduction.

John Veranth mentioned that he has much concern about this issue. He has spent a lot of time working with the Western Regional Air Partnership on the Fire Emissions Forum.

Prescribed burns require balancing forest health and air quality--two environmental impacts, and two issues of great concern. The credibility of the Forest Service's prescribed burn plan depends on avoiding these types of things. One thing that needs to be looked at by DAQ and the review panel is whether prescriptions were really followed. The campfire restriction was only lifted on September 10, so on September 9 it would have been illegal to have a campfire. There had been no rain between September 10 and September 13, so the area was extremely dry, yet the Forest Service lit 600 acres. This brings into question whether the moisture content of the soil was checked and whether other requirements of the current prescriptions were being followed. There's also the question whether the current prescriptions are being written to adequately consider air quality impacts and what would happen if the burn goes out of prescription.

Mr. Olson asked about the number of acres burned through a prescribed burn each year and also the number of escapes that have occurred. Mr. Dudley responded that over the last three years, approximately 60-80,000 acres have been burned in the region on a yearly basis. Over the last five years (approximately 250-300 burns), there have been five escapes, with the Cascade Springs escape being the largest.

Scott Hirschi asked Rick Sprott if he had personally reviewed the procedures for issuing the permit. Mr. Sprott responded that he had. There will be an internal review of current regulations and procedures, and a report will be given to the Board in the near future.

JoAnn Seghini asked if any information was available regarding the health effects of the smoke. The response was that no information is available. Dr. Wayne Samuelson responded that it doesn't take long for this kind of thing to affect people with respiratory problems. The aftermath of the smoke will go on for a number of weeks.

B. University of Utah Salt Lake Valley Airshed Project

Craig Forster of the University of Utah presented this item to the Board. The National Science Foundation has funded a team from the University of Utah to conduct a two and one-half year urban trace-gas emissions study. The goals of this study are:

1. To improve our understanding of the complexity of urban ecosystems and airshed systems
2. To provide a framework for evaluating the multiple and interacting factors that influence land-atmosphere exchange in urban areas
3. To evaluate feasible and effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, maintain high air quality standards, and improve the quality of life of urban residents.

The study brings together an interdisciplinary team of ecologists, atmospheric scientists, engineers, social scientists, urban planners, decision-makers, remote sensing specialists, and systems modelers to measure concentrations and inventory emissions of CO₂, H₂O and VOCs, study factors affecting emissions and concentrations, and simulate alternative future urban emissions scenarios.

C. SIPs Update

Jan Miller reported that EPA is under court settlement to put all states' SIPs on their regional web sites by November 14, 2003.

Ms. Miller asked for volunteers to act as hearing officers for the Regional Haze SIP public hearings. Wayne Samuelson volunteered for the Salt Lake City hearing, and Scott Hirschi volunteered for the St. George hearing.

Ms. Miller mentioned that the technical support document for the Regional Haze SIP is now available on the web.

Jerry Grover inquired about the status of the CO SIP. Rick Sprott responded that he modeling is nearing completion, and some basic proposals should be ready for the Board by the first of next year.

Some general discussion took place regarding the I/M program.

D. Monitoring Activities

Bob Dalley reviewed PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, and ozone monitoring results for August and September and responded to questions from the Board.

E. HAPS and Compliance Activities

No questions or comments on this item.

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.